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| 1. ~~Mr Muston~~ | ~~B.415~~ |
| 2. ~~Mr Morley Parry~~ | ~~A.421~~ |
| 3. ~~Mr Perry~~ | ~~A.405~~ |

KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT
on the
Health of the Area
for the Year 1969

Presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and
Public Health Inspector

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

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(Part-time)

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Public Health matters are dealt with by the Public Health
and Highways Committee

Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1969

PREFACE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I present herewith the Annual Report of the health of the district during 1969, drawn up on the lines of Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/70 dated January 1970. Included in the Report is the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

Mr. P. Tedstone joined the staff in October to undertake the duties of Additional Public Health Inspector. His work began with a survey of food premises in the town.

In April an Engineering Inquiry into the Council's proposed sewerage and sewage treatment scheme took place. At present all sewage is discharged into the Salcombe Estuary in its crude untreated state. This pollutes the estuary and is unhygienic and undesirable. The proposed works will treat the sewage before effluent is discharged into the estuary.

No public health emergencies arose during the year.

I wish to thank members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

JOHN WILDMAN
Medical Officer of Health
July 1970.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1969

Table 1

Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets

POPULATION :

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Kingsbridge Urban District
3,510 (3,340)

Natural increase or decrease	...	...	+1	(-5)
Migration in or out	...	...	+169	(+25)
Total increase or decrease	...	...	+170	(+20)
Population at 1961 Census	...	...	...	3,287

GENERAL STATISTICS :

Area of Kingsbridge Urban District in Acres
1,148

Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books
1,278 (1,313)

Number of Houses per acre	...	...	1.113	(1.144)
Number of Persons per acre	...	...	3.049	(2.909)
Number of Persons per house	...	...	2.739	(2.543)
Dwellings owned by the Council	...	...	...	369

Rateable Value of District at 1st April

£144,920 (£139,908)

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate

£590 (£565)

Table 2**Figures for 1968 are shown in brackets****BIRTHS :****Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population** 14.4 (12.6)**Area Comparability Factor for Births** ... 1.17 (1.17)**Number of Live Births**

	Males	Females	Total
Total	19	24	43
Legitimate	17	21	38
Illegitimate	2	3	5
Number of Still Births	0	0	0

DEATHS :**Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population** ... 10.8 (10.7)**Area Comparability Factor for Deaths** ... 0.90 (0.87)**Number of Deaths :**

	Males	Females	Total
All ages—Total	24	18	42

Deaths of Infants under 1 year 0 1 1

Number under 4 weeks of age 0 1 1

Number under 1 week of age 0 1 1

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births ... 23.8 (0.00)**Comparisons with Rates for England and Wales****Birth Rate** 16.3 (16.9) **Death Rate** 11.9 (11.9)**Infantile Mortality Rate** 18.0 (18.0)

(Infants under 1 year of age)

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1969

Cause of Death		All ages		
		M.	F.	Total
B19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	1	0	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	1	1	2
B19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	0	2	2
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms ...	3	3	6
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. ...	0	1	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease ...	10	2	12
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	1	2	3
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease ...	3	1	4
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	1	3	4
B32	Pneumonia ...	1	0	1
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema ...	1	1	2
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	0	1
B46(8)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	0	1	1
B44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	0	1	1
BE48	All Other Accidents ...	1	0	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...		24	18	42

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES**

Table 1

Disease	Total	Age group in years					Over 65
		Under 1	1- 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 65	
Infective Jaundice	1	0	0	0	0	1	0

Table 2

Disease	Total	Incidence by Quarters			
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Infective Jaundice	1	0	1	0	0

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary under the National Assistance Acts of 1948 and 1951 for the removal of persons in need of care and attention and no persons were buried in accordance with Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Hospitals.

A General Practitioner Hospital with 13 beds is situated at Kingsbridge. Other hospitals which serve the district are at Plymouth and Totnes.

2 County Council Health Services.

Under the National Health Services Act, 1946, the Devon County Council provides the following services :—

Domiciliary midwives, home nurses, health visitors, supervisory care of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, ambulance services, vaccination and immunisation procedures, home-help services and the after-care of such persons.

Full details can be obtained from the County Medical Officer at Exeter.

3. Mental Health.

Arrangements for treatment under the Mental Health Act, 1959, can be made either by the patient's own doctor or by the Psychiatric Social Worker, Mr. R. V. Townsend, Fore Street Clinic, Kingsbridge. Telephone 2178.

4. Laboratory Service.

Bacteriological examinations of pathological specimens and samples of milk, water and ice cream are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Plymouth. The chemical analysis of water is undertaken by public analysts at Exeter.

5. Medical and Dental Services.

There are four general medical practitioners and three dentists in the town.

6. Mass Miniature Radiography.

A Mass X-Ray Unit visits the town regularly once a fortnight and members of the public are encouraged to attend for a chest X-ray.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

In October of this year Mr. P. D. Tedstone took up the duties of Assistant Public Health Inspector, to which he had been appointed by the Council in August.

The wisdom of this decision was soon apparent, and the work of the department benefited by the enthusiasm and keenness shown by this officer.

With staff reorganisation being forced on the Council by retirement, it is confidently anticipated that further good results will accrue in the future from the recruitment of this young man.

Water Supply.

No difficulties were experienced during the year in connection with the water supply for the area, which was maintained at its usual high standard of quality and quantity.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Progress with the proposed sewage disposal scheme was frustrated by disagreement between the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the Devon River Authority and the Devon County Council over standards and costs.

At a time when great emphasis is placed on pollution control and, at last, protection of man's environment came to national and international attention, it was disappointing to find that attempts to remedy the inadequacy of the present arrangement for sewage disposal were thwarted when financial assistance was requested. A number of troubles prevailing in the town can be directly or indirectly attributed to the lack of any sewage disposal facilities, and as this must be one of the most urgent requirements, it is hoped that more progress will be made in 1970, European Conservation Year.

Housing.

Generally the standard of housing in the town remained reasonably good.

No new Council houses were built during the year. Private dwellings were constructed in considerable numbers, these selling mainly to the people retiring to the area. This is a growing trend which has the effect of raising property values and making it difficult for young married couples to buy their own houses, thus adding to the Council housing list.

Applications for Improvement Grants continued steadily through the year. With the introduction of the Housing Act, 1969, and increased grant facilities, new impetus was given to this useful method of raising the standard of the housing stock and extended life given to worthwhile dwellings.

A number of complaints were received alleging disrepair of private rented properties. These were found in the main to be justified, but the owners generally took steps to remedy the defects

as a result of verbal or informal requests. In two cases, however, it has been necessary to resort to formal action, neither case was resolved during the year.

Bearing in mind the high cost of building repair and maintenance and the small return from controlled rental, many property owners find the letting of old property uneconomic, but it is gratifying to find in a majority of these cases solutions can be worked out informally.

A list of inspections and notices served is included under the heading of Nuisances, etc.

Offices and Shops.

Since the introduction of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, much time and attention has been given to this aspect of environmental hygiene throughout the country. Concerned with the safety and working conditions of shop and office staff, the application of this Act is time consuming and not always well received. This holds true for most new controls and restrictions but the fact is conditions in Kingsbridge offices and shops are not all they might be and required during the year considerable attention. The spirit of this Act was to give to shop and office staff the same protection as that provided for factory employees.

When one considers the time spent in one's place of work is nearly as much as that at home, working conditions are important and worthy of continuing effort.

New registrations during 1969	...	...	...	...	17
Total number of inspections under this Act	...	...	...	...	59

NUISANCES, ETC.

Number of complaints received :—

(a) alleging nuisances	...	...	...	...	1
(b) alleging house defects	...	...	...	...	298
(c) other complaints	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances proved	...	...	...	...	5
Notices served	...	...	Informal	...	7
			Statutory	...	3
Minor housing repairs dealt with	...	...	...	...	283
Other complaints remedied	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of inspections in connection with the erection of new houses and conversions	...	...	...	...	53

No difficulties were encountered during the year in connection with pest control, and insect and rodent infestations reported were dealt with by the rodent operator or by way of advice as to suitable treatment. Test baiting of lengths of the sewerage system were undertaken as routine by the rodent operator.

Notifications	...	...	...	...	53
Infestations treated	...	...	...	...	31
Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	92

FOOD

Modern methods of food retailing have blurred the edges of the traditional distributive demarcations, and it will now be seen that fishmongers also sell greengrocery ; butcheries are incorporated in supermarkets or prepacked meat is sold from chilled self-service

display cabinets. There is a tendency for supermarkets to become food halls and surviving small shops to specialise or rely on personal services to retain custom. For these reasons, attempts to classify food premises according to their traditional trades are becoming more difficult, but the following is a list of different types in the town for 1969 :—

Supermarkets/Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakers/Confectioners (2 bakehouses)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Wet and Fried Fish Shops (1 mobile)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

In addition to the above there were various ice cream and refreshment stalls and mobile food vendors operating in the town.

Public houses are included in the list as more and more food is being sold from these premises, either from well established restaurants or simple over-the-bar snacks.

It has been found that public houses just starting to cater are often poorly equipped to prepare food and more attention was paid to this aspect of food retailing.

It was found that in several premises standards of hygiene were inadequate, and it was particularly disappointing to find two local branches of large supermarket companies well below the minimum requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960. Although one of these has subsequently carried out extensive works of maintenance and improvement and now complies with the regulations, in my opinion there is no excuse for nationally operating companies who are well aware of hygiene requirements and have the staff and resources to keep their shops up to standard.

In the main, shortcomings found were rectified by verbal notice at the time of inspection and action taken thereon by the proprietors. In a few cases, informal notices were resorted to. The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

Manufacture of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Storage of ice cream for sale	...	...	...	...	...	27
Preparation or manufacture of sausages, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1954	...	...	...	...	...	3

The total weight of food condemned as a result of voluntary surrender was 506 lb., consisting mainly of damaged and defective canned products and wholesale meat joints.

Total number of visits to food premises	...	...	...	...	159
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	4
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	3

Meat Inspection.

The rate of slaughtering increased slightly during the year and efforts were made to keep the slaughterhouse up to the minimum legal requirements.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :—

	Cattle Excluding Cows Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	274	—	2	976	—	—
Number inspected	274	—	2	970	—	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	123	—	—	103	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	45.5%	—	—	16.2%	—	—
Tuberculosis only :			Nil			
Cysticerosis :	2	—	—	—	—	—

It will be seen by comparison with previous years that there was a greater percentage of animals affected with disease, etc. This is mainly explained by an increase in the instance of fasciola hepatica, commonly known as liver fluke, and probably due to a wet season giving waterlogged pastures. This is a long-standing cause of food loss and it seems that little is being done to reduce the incidence of this parasitic condition.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. in Register	Inspect'ns	Number of Written Notices	Occup'rs Prosec'd
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	40	5	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	42	5	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found : NIL.

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

There are no outworkers.

